APEDA plan for organic farming

1525. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether APEDA has formulated a plan for farmers to switch over the 'organic farming[1] in place of the traditional farming to boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether APEDA has developed organic standards for various organic farm products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how these standards are made available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the aegis of National Programme for Organic Production, APEDA promotes organic farming through various export oriented initiatives, including development of model organic farms, conduct of awareness programmes etc.

(c) to (e) APEDA has developed organic standards for four crops namely, rice, sugarcane, pineapple and passion fruits. These standards (package of practices) were translated and made available in the North Eastern States in the local language as well as in English.

Special hospitals for women in Orissa

1526. MS. PRAMILA BOHID: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special hospitals are proposed to be set up in Orissa for women to improve health care of the mother and the child;

(b) if so, the contribution of the Central Government to help the State to achieve this objective, as it is a poverty stricken area; and

(c) whether the State has the highest infant mortality rate in the country, if so, the financial and other help rendered by the Centre to the State to control it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In view of the existing health facilities in Orissa, especially for the health care of mother and child, there is no need to establish any separate hospital, exclusively for women. Government has already proposed a multi-disciplinary super-speciality institute on the lines of AIIMS to be established at Bhubaneshwar.

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate of Orissa is 90/1000 live births (SRS-RGI 2001). As a part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme immunization, facilities for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections and dehydration due to diarrhoea and essential newborn care are being provided. Towards improving the nutritional status of infants and children, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are undertaken. Programmes for prophylaxis against Vitamin 'A' deficiency and iron deficiency anaemia are being implemented. To improve outreach of these services, several schemes including organization of RCH Camps, RCH Outreach Scheme, Dai Training Programme are being implemented.

Manufacturing of combination drugs

1527. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under para 122(e) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules prior permission of the Drug Controller of India is mandatory for developing a new drug with combination of two or more drugs; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies found violating the above provision during last two years and the measures taken by Government to prevent the trend of manufacturing combination based drugs without approval of the Drug Controller of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.